

HUNTINGDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

---

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**Borough of Huntingdon,**

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

BY

**CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**



---

HUNTINGDON :  
FRIEND & NORTHFIELD, PRINTERS, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2944326x>

HUNTINGDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

---

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**Borough of Huntingdon,**

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

BY

**CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

---

HUNTINGDON :

FRIEND & NORTHFIELD, PRINTERS, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK.

# TO THE HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my report upon the health of the Borough of Huntingdon for the year 1945, compiled according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The Borough of Huntingdon, with which is incorporated the village of Hartford, is situate on the north side of the River Ouse. It has an area of 2,151 acres, the soil being gravel and clay. The town is composed of a collection of streets, the main one, a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river.

War-time industries were brought into the town, which gave employment to inhabitants of Huntingdon, and also necessitating an influx from the neighbouring towns and villages. After cessation of hostilities, the evacuated school children returned to their homes, and the Service camps in the neighbourhood were closed. This slightly mitigated the state of overcrowding which had been present during the war.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was estimated at 1408.

The Rateable Value is £31,201.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £125 10s. 2d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	5290
Live Births Registered	...	...	...	105	M. 54 F. 51	
			Legitimate	...	M. 45 F. 46	
			Illegitimate	...	M. 9 F. 5	
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	19.8 per 1000	
			England and Wales	16.1	per 1000	
Stillbirths	...	...	...	2	M. 2 F. 0	
				0.37	per 1000	
			England and Wales	0.46	per 1000	
Deaths due to Childbirth	...	...	...	...	1	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	4	M. 2 F. 2	
			Legitimate	...	M. 2 F. 1	
			Illegitimate	...	M. 0 F. 1	
			Asphyxia	...	M	
			Whooping Cough	...	F	
			Premature Birth	...	F	
			Haem : Disease of Newborn	...	M	
Deaths Registered	...	...	...	62	M. 30 F. 32	
				18	over 70 years	
				17	over 80 years	
				3	over 90 years	



Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7 per 1000
						England & Wales	11.4 per 1000

There was a slight decrease in the births (121 to 105) and in the deaths during the year. Of the 62 deaths, 38 were aged people.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea, or Diphtheria among children, but one from Whooping Cough. The general health of the inhabitants for the year was very good. There was an epidemic of Chicken Pox, but not in a severe form. All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first 24 hours.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In-and Out-patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots takes care of cases that are not serious enough to be sent to the Mental Hospital at Arlesey.

The Public Assistance Institution at the North end of the town takes all cases of illness and infirmity from the district, with the exception of the Mental cases.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes, and cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the local Isolation Hospital.

Food is examined periodically in the Laboratory, Tenison Road, Cambridge, and Clinical material by Dr. Harvey, of Cambridge through the County Council.

#### **Legislation in force.**

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
"    "    "    "    "	...	1907
"    "    "    "    "	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act	...	1889
"    "    Prevention Act	...	1890
Notification of Births Act	... ..	1907
Shops Act	... ..	1934

#### **Hospitals.**

There is a voluntary County Hospital in the Borough which receives cases; an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases supported by the rates from this and neighbouring Councils. Cases of small Pox in the Borough are now provided for by the County Council.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

There is a sufficient ambulance service in the Borough for ordinary cases and for infectious cases.

### **Clinics.**

There are clinics in the Borough for Tuberculosis, Chest Diseases, Ear, Nose and Throat cases, Child Welfare, Ante-natal matters, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic, and Mental Diseases, under the County Council jurisdiction.

### **Water Supply.**

Conditions relating to the Town's Water Supply were better than in 1944. The rainfall on which the supply depends being 19ft. 2ins. compared with 17ft. 8ins. in 1944.

Samples of water were sent regularly to the Medical Research Council Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

The raw water is treated by chlorination and the analyses proved satisfactory throughout the year.

During the latter part of the year the supply for eight houses in Sapley, on the extreme Northern part of the Town was found to be unsatisfactory and insufficient.

Water has, since that time, been carted to supply these houses as there is no piped supply available at present.

### **Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.**

The Council have proceeded with the preparation of a new Scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The provision of a Disposal Scheme is needed urgently.

The new proposals will allow for a joint Scheme to serve the Borough and the Borough of Godmanchester.

### **Collection & Disposal of House Refuse.**

Collections of House Refuse are made once per week from dwelling houses and at least twice per week from trade premises.

The refuse is destroyed by means of an Incinerator situated well away from the Town.

### **Bathing Place.**

The Bathing Place was closed during the year owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the water.

### **Inspection.**

During the year I have made several inspections of the District accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, vide page 8.

### **Housing.**

In September a start was made with the advance preparation of the Site for permanent houses in Ambury Hill Field.

The layout provides for 50 houses and 4 bungalows.



Up to the end of the year good progress had been made and the work of site preparation and the laying of services was well advanced.

In November a tender was accepted for the Site preparation for Temporary houses on the Priory Lane Site.

Eighteen temporary Bungalows will be built on this land.

The Borough Council now possess 200 houses, and of these 190 have been built and 10 acquired since 1914.

Inspections under Housing Acts have been in abeyance, but have been made and urgent matters dealt with under Public Health Act, 1936.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health)	...	38
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		44
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1925) and Sec. 5 of the 1936 Act	... ..	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	Nil

**Lodging Houses.**

There is one registered Lodging House in the Borough.

**Shops Act, 1934.**

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

**Schools.**

The sanitary condition and water supply to the schools is the same as that of the Borough. The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Cases of Tuberculosis are periodically examined at the County Clinic, or visited by the Health Visitor, and X-rayed at Papworth Sanatorium. The County Council allow patients the statutory allowances, besides priority milk and eggs. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. There were two new cases.

### **Venereal Disease.**

As this is not a notifiable disease, no record of cases is kept but it is known that the incidence of disease is slight. Cases are treated at Peterborough and Cambridge.

### **Pnuemonia.**

There were 8 cases of this disease, with 1 death.

### **Influenza.**

This disease was quiescent during the year ; 1 death was reported.

### **Cancer.**

There were 9 deaths from Cancer during the year.

### **Varicella.**

There was an epidemic this year, 56 cases being notified.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There were 3 cases notified, but no deaths.

### **Scabies.**

There were a few cases of Scabies, which were satisfactorily dealt with at the Public Assistance Institution or in the patients' homes.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Infective Jaundice are notifiable as a wartime measure. There were 27 cases of Measles reported, 14 of Whooping Cough and 4 of Jaundice. Your Authority innoculates children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough free of charge.

The following cases were notified under the Act :—

Varicella	...	...	...	56
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Pnuemonia	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	14
Infective Jaundice	...	...	...	4



Fifty-six children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year, 54 under 5 years and 2 between 5 and 15 years. It is estimated that approximately 75% of under 5's and 90% of 5-15's have been immunised against Diphtheria. There are no records of the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough in the Borough, but parents have not taken much advantage of this offer by the Council.

### Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

Influenza	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1

### Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The Council have Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings and regulations relating to house drainage and water supply.

CHARLES E. HICKS

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Huntingdon Borough Council.*

HUNTINGDON.

*June 1946.*

### Causes of Death in the Borough of Huntingdon, 1945.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	30	32
Cancer	4	5
Intracranial Vascular lesions	5	8
Heart Disease...	7	7
Other disease of circulatory system	2	1
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Influenza	1	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive diseases	—	2
Childbirth	—	1
Premature Birth	—	1
Infantile Disease	1	—
Suicide	2	—
Other Violent Causes	3	—
Other Defined Causes	2	3

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1945.

Total No. Inspections made during 1945 ...				...	...	86
,, ,, Notices Served (Informal) ...				...	...	42
Complaints received ...	...	...	...	Total number of...	...	64
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 91)	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	70
				Nuisances abated	...	60
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Drain, draintraps, etc., etc. ...	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	6
				Nuisances abated	...	5
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Smoke nuisances ...	...	...	...	No. of observations	...	3
				Nuisances abated	...	3
Offensive accumulations ...	...	...	...	No. of inspections	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Other sanitary conditions ...	...	...	...	No. inspected ...	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Lodging houses ...	...	...	...	No. registered ...	...	1
				No. of inspections	...	1
Slaughter houses and shops ...	...	...	...	No. licensed or registered	...	5
				No. of inspections	...	5
Offensive trades (Sec. 112 Public Health Act, 1875) ...	...	...	...	No. established ...	...	—
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	...	...	...	No. of Inspections	...	—
				No. of houses condemned	...	—
				No. closed	...	—
				No. cleaned and limewashed	...	1
Food—seizures of unwholesome	...	...	...	No. of	...	—
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	Houses affected with Tuberculosis	...	1
				Houses inspected	...	1
				No. of inspections	...	4
				Houses disinfected	...	4
				Schools disinfected	...	—
				Disinfectant used Newcol : Lawes	...	—
				Lots of clothing disinfected	...	—
				,, ,, destroyed	...	—
Pail or Earth Closets ...	...	...	...	New provided	...	—
				No. converted to W.C.'s	...	—
Water Closets ...	...	...	...	New provided	...	—
				No. supplied with water	...	—
Ashpits ..	...	...	...	New provided	...	—
				No converted to ashbins	...	—
Dustbins ...	...	...	...	New provided	...	20
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	Samples taken for analysis	...	30
				Samples condemned	...	—
				Wells closed	...	—
				Wells cleansed, repaired, etc....	...	—
				Public supply substituted for well or pond	...	1

					Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered—				
					Waste pipes disconnected from				
					drain ...	...	...	...	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
					Convictions ...	...	...	...	—
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.									
Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total number on register (in-				
					cluding bakehouses)	...	...	...	97
					Number in which nuisances				
					abated	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on register	...	...	...	3
					No. in which nuisances abated				1
					No. of outworkers	...	...	...	—
					No. of houses	...	...	...	—
					No. of infected houses			...	—
Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
					Convictions ..	...	...	...	—

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—This was controlled by the Milk Marketing Board. Dairies and cowsheds are regularly inspected, and any defects corrected where required by the owners under the 1926 order.

(b) MEAT.—There are six slaughter houses in the district, but have not been in use since all cattle have been slaughtered at St. Ives under a control scheme.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Food Inspection and Sampling is carried out by County Weights and Measures Inspector. A quantity of tinned food was surrendered voluntarily.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—

No action taken.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
No. of Inspections during Milking time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Have regulations been adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes

Cowsheds with Well Water Supply—

No. of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

E. J. SAUNDERS,  
Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES E. HICKS,  
M.O.H.



**BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON.**

**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1945.**

*Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	2			1	3			1		4
	Uncertified										
Premature Birth		1									1
Haem. Dis. of Newborn		1									1
Asphyxia					1						1
Whooping Cough									1		1
...											
...											
		2			1	3			1		4

Nett Births in the year :—			Nett Deaths in the year of:—		
Legitimate	...	91	Legitimate Infants	...	3
Illegitimate	...	14	Illegitimate Infants	...	1
Still Births	...	2			
			Total 107		Total 4

## Tuberculosis.

*New Cases and Mortality during 1945.*

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...								
20 ...		1						
25 ...	1							
35 ...								
45 ...								
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925.*

*Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.*

No action was taken.

**Ten Years Fatal Cases of :**

<b>Year.</b>	<b>Cancer.</b>	<b>Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.</b>
<b>1936</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1937</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1938</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1939</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1942</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1943</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1944</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>105</b>	<b>33</b>





